

T-O-P S-E-C-R-E-T

TS #185322

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

7 June 1962

SUBJECT: SOVIET CAPABILITIES TO COUNTER HOSTILE SATELLITES

THE PROBLEM

To assess Soviet capabilities to nullify the missions of hostile low altitude earth satellites -- with and without the use of nuclear weapons -- during the next year or so.

DISCUSSION

1. While we estimate that Soviet leaders perceive an urgent requirement to develop a capability to counter hostile earth satellites, we have insufficient evidence to judge that the USSR is or is not pursuing an antisatellite program. The Soviets possess, however, certain tracking facilities, missiles, and warheads which we believe could be currently adapted in a makeshift system designed to nullify the missions of US low altitude satellites.

GROUP 1

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I. TRACKING FACILITIES

2. We have been unable to identify a tracking system specifically designed to track non-Soviet satellites although scattered instances of Soviet interest in such operations have been noted.

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II. INTERCEPT VEHICLES

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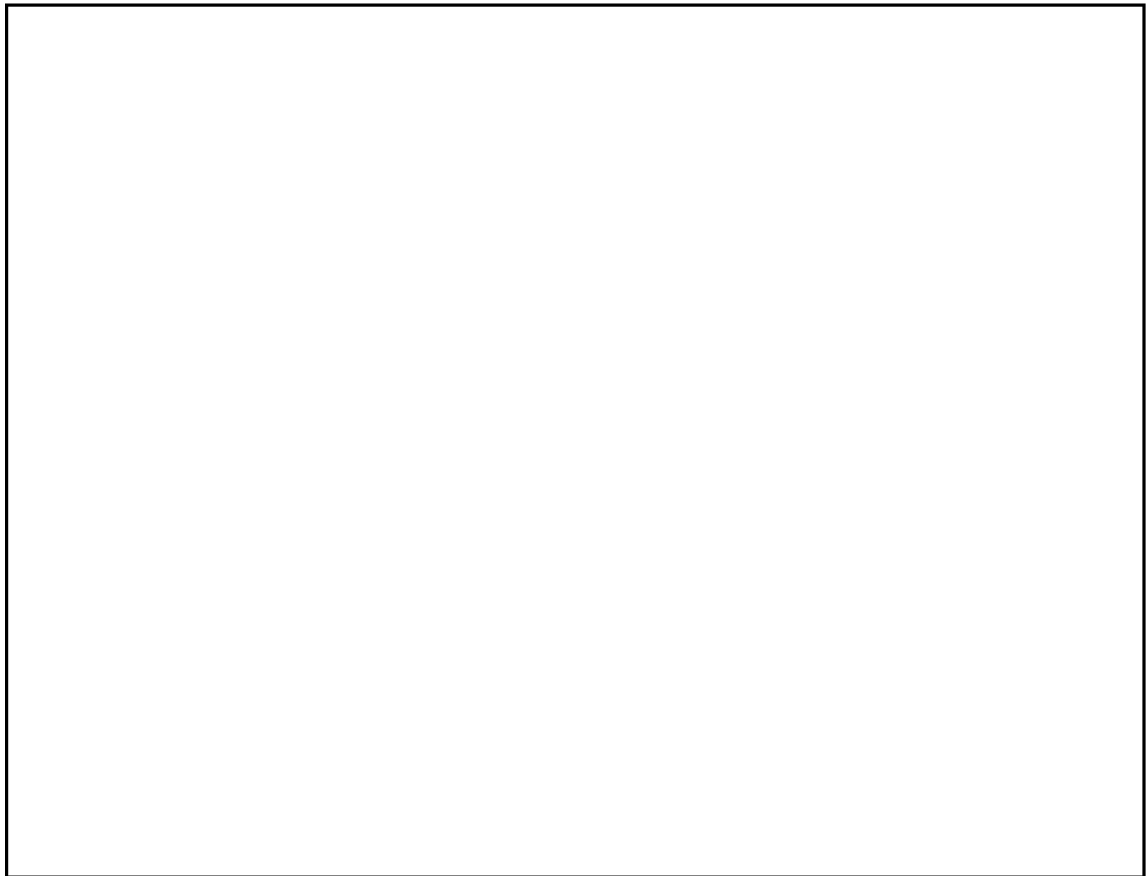
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III. WARHEADS



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IV. CONCLUSION

5. Our evidence is thus insufficient to support a conclusion on present Soviet capabilities to nullify a low altitude

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satellite.

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As

elements of the USSR's antiballistic missile system are deployed, we estimate that Soviet capabilities to counter hostile satellites will increase. This increase may be substantial during the next year or so.

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